

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A lock (1) for a door of a motor vehicle including a closing mechanism (4) designed to co-operate with a lock striker (6), said closing mechanism (4) comprising:

a fork (8) which can assume an opening position, in which it enables engagement and disengagement between the lock striker (6) and a seat (13) thereof, and a closing position, in which it withholds the lock striker (6) within its seat (13) and prevents disengagement thereof;

a dog (9), which can be coupled via snap-action with said fork (8) for blocking it in a releasable way in said closing position; and

an auxiliary lever (22), which can be actuated by said fork (8) during coupling with the lock striker (6) for exerting an action of thrust on said dog (9) and causing it to couple with said fork (8) itself, wherein said auxiliary lever (22) is biased towards a position of detachment from said dog (9).

2. (Previously presented) The lock according to claim 1 wherein said fork (8) is elastically loaded towards said opening position, can be displaced, under the thrust of the lock striker (6), from said opening position to an overtravel position set beyond said closing position, and can be coupled via snap-action with said dog (9) during the elastic return from said overtravel position to said closing position, said fork (8) co-operating with said auxiliary lever (22) between said closing and overtravel positions.

3. (Previously presented) The lock according to claim 2 wherein said fork (8) and said dog (9) can rotate about a first axis (A) and a second axis (B) parallel to one another, and wherein said auxiliary lever (22) can rotate about a third axis (C) parallel to said first

and second axes (A, B) and has an actuating portion (25), co-operating with said fork (8), and a thrust portion (26), co-operating with said dog (9).

4. (Previously presented) The lock according to claim 3 wherein said lever (22) is basically L-shaped and includes an intermediate portion (24), rotatable about said third axis (C), and two arms (25, 26), which project in cantilever fashion from said intermediate portion (24) and define said actuating portion and said thrust portion.

5. (Previously presented) The lock according to claim 4, wherein said lever (22) is biased by a spring (29) towards said position of detachment from said dog (9).

6. (Previously presented) The lock according to claim 5 wherein said fork (8) has, within its own lateral profile, an interaction portion (28) for interaction with said auxiliary lever (22), which projects in cantilever fashion from said fork (8) itself, and wherein said auxiliary lever (22) is set, at least in an area corresponding to the actuating portion (25) designed to co-operate with said interaction portion (28) of said fork (8), on a plane parallel to the plane of lie of the fork (8) itself.

7. (Currently amended) A lock (1) for a door of a motor vehicle designed to co-operate with a lock striker (6), said lock (1) comprising:

a plate (3);

a fork (8) including a seat (13), which can assume an opening position enabling engagement and disengagement between the lock striker (6) and said seat (13), and a closing position withholding the lock striker (6) within said seat (13) to prevent disengagement therefrom;

a dog (9), which can be coupled via snap-action with said fork (8) for blocking said fork (8) in a releasable way in said closing position; and

an auxiliary lever (22) rotatably mounted directly to said plate (3), wherein said auxiliary lever (22) is actuated by said fork (8) during coupling of said fork (8) with the

lock striker (6) thereby exerting an action of thrust on said dog (9) and causing said dog (9) to couple with said fork (8), and wherein said auxiliary lever (22) is biased towards a position of detachment from said dog (9).

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) The lock according to claim ~~[[8]]~~ 7 wherein said auxiliary lever (22) is actuated by said fork (8) when said fork (8) fork rotates to an overtravel position beyond said closing position.

10. (Previously presented) The lock according to claim 9 wherein said auxiliary lever (22) is detached from said dog (9) when said fork (8) is in said opening position.

11. (Previously presented) The lock according to claim 10 wherein said auxiliary lever (22) is detached from said dog (9) when said fork (8) is in said closing position.

12. (Previously presented) A lock (1) for a door of a motor vehicle designed to co-operate with a lock striker (6), said lock (1) comprising:

a fork (8) including a seat (13) for receiving the lock striker (6) therein, said fork (8) rotatably mounted to the lock (1) for movement between an opening position enabling engagement and disengagement between the lock striker (6) and said seat (13), and a closing position withholding the lock striker (6) within said seat (13) to prevent disengagement therefrom;

a dog (9) rotatably mounted to the lock (1) for engagement with said fork (8) for blocking said fork (8) in a releasable way in said closing position; and

an auxiliary lever (22) rotatably mounted to the lock (1) separately from said dog (9), wherein said fork (8) abuts said auxiliary lever (22) during coupling of said fork (8) with the lock striker (6), thereby rotating said auxiliary lever (22) and causing said auxiliary lever (22) to abut said dog (9), thereby rotating said dog (9) and causing said dog (9) to couple with said fork (8).

13. (Previously presented) The lock according to claim 12 wherein said auxiliary lever (22) is biased towards a position of detachment from said dog (9).